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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/973,883	10/10/2001	John R. Hind	RSW920010194US1	7074
7590	12/23/2003		EXAMINER	
Gerald R. Woods IBM Corporation T81/503 PO Box 12195 Research Triangle Park, NY 27709			WOO, ISAAC M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2172	3
			DATE MAILED: 12/23/2003	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/973,883	HIND ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Isaac M Woo	2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Downs et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,070,176, hereinafter, "Downs").

With respect to claims 1-2 and 9, Downs discloses, the method for organizing electronic objects, selecting, by a user, an element of an electronic object (web document), see (col. 3, lines 20-42, col. 1, lines 25-40); and concluding, responsive to the selecting, that the user has indicated a criterion for organizing electronic objects (web document), see (fig. 3, fig. 7, col. 5, lines 9-50, col. 8, lines 51-67 6 to col. 9, lines 1-17). Downs discloses the selecting an element of electronic object, see (col. 3, lines 20-42, col. 1, lines 25-40). Downs does not explicitly disclose the selecting an element of electronic object "in a manner consistent with defined selection settings". However, Downs discloses the hypertext link is generally activated by a user's either manually inputting the link or by selecting a key word, phrase, or image in a Web document, see

(col. 3, lines 20-42, col. 1, lines 25-40). This teaches, in order to select web document, hypertext link is provided with defined setting. Defined setting is manual inputting or selecting keyword for hypertext link input. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art the time of the invention was made to include in a manner consistent with defined selection settings to provide electronic object selections. Because hypertext link (selection of electronic object) is performed by URL address input user interface (defined setting), which provides user's easy selection of URL link.

With respect to claims 3 and 7, Downs discloses, the selecting a word, a phrase, or one or more contiguous characters, see (col. 1, lines 25-40).

With respect to claims 4-5, Downs discloses, the word, the phrase, or the characters is/are contained in a text document and e-mail message, see (col. 1, lines 25-40, e-mail message is a text document).

With respect to claims 6 and 8, Downs discloses, selecting a portion of one or more image file, see (col. 1, lines 25-40).

With respect to claim 10, Downs discloses, using the selected criterion (user specified criteria) to format a rule (ranking results are used to format to generate 3-D map) for organizing stored document, see (fig. 7, col. 8, lines 51-67 to col. 9, lines 1-17).

With respect to claims 11-15, Downs discloses, using a mouse device, light pen, plasma panel, audio and video mechanism, see (fig. 2, col. 3, lines 54-67 to col. 4, lines 51, mouse device, light pen, plasma panel, audio and video devices are used for user operating system and data input, output system).

With respect to claim 16, Downs discloses, swiping an element of a particular electronic object multiple times, see (col. 3, lines 20-42, col. 1, lines 25-40).

With respect to claim 17, Downs discloses, the index becomes adaptive, see (fig. 3, fig. 7, col. 5, lines 9-50, ranking results list are the index).

With respect to claims 18 and 19, Downs discloses, the method for organizing electronic objects, means for selecting, by a user, an element of an electronic object (web document), see (col. 3, lines 20-42, col. 1, lines 25-40); and means for concluding, responsive to the selecting, that the user has indicated a criterion for organizing electronic objects (web document), see (fig. 3, fig. 7, col. 5, lines 9-50, col. 8, lines 51-67 6 to col. 9, lines 1-17), using the selected criterion (user specified criteria) to format a rule (ranking results are used to format to generate 3-D map for document) for organizing stored document, see (fig. 7, col. 8, lines 51-67 to col. 9, lines 1-17). Downs discloses the selecting an element of electronic object, see (col. 3, lines 20-42, col. 1, lines 25-40). Downs does not explicitly disclose the selecting an element of electronic object "in a manner consistent with defined selection settings". However, Downs

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discloses the hypertext link is generally activated by a user's either manually inputting the link or by selecting a key word, phrase, or image in a Web document, see (col. 3, lines 20-42, col. 1, lines 25-40). This teaches, in order to select web document, hypertext link is provided with defined setting. Defined setting is manual inputting or selecting keyword for hypertext link input. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art the time of the invention was made to include in a manner consistent with defined selection settings to provide electronic object selections. Because hyper text link (selection of electronic object) is performed by URL address input user interface (defined setting), which provides user's easy selection of URL link.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Snow et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,098,066) discloses the system for searching a document directory hierarchy which partitions a user-initiated search. The document directory hierarchy comprises a plurality of document directories stored in a tree data structure. Each of the plurality of document directories corresponds to a category within a class hierarchy and stores at least one document. A user query comprising one or more search terms is accepted from an input device. If the user query includes a user-selected category, a directed search is performed. However, if the user query does not include a user-selected category, an undirected search is performed. The directed

search confines the search to one of the plurality of document directories corresponding to the user-selected category, and returns relevant documents within the user-selected category. Thus, this prior art (organizing document) also can be used as 103 reference.

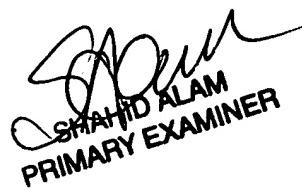
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0081. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

IMW
December 12, 2003


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER